

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/699,159 Examiner: Amina S. Khan
Applicant(s): Conrad, et al. T.C./A.U.: 1796
Filed: October 31, 2003 Docket No.: US20010201 (31480.4)
Title: NON-AQUEOUS WASHING MACHINE AND METHOD

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION OF MR. TREMITCHELL WRIGHT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Tremitchell Wright, declare and say as follows:

(1) I am a U.S. citizen and reside at 52667 Springmill Drive, Elkhart, Indiana, 46514.

(2) I have received the following degrees: a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL in 1983; and a Master of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM in 1985.

(3) I have been working in the field of chemical research for at least 20 years.

(4) I have been working in research in the field of non-aqueous laundering of fabrics for at least 12 years at Whirlpool Corporation.

(5) I am one of the inventors for pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/699,159 which was published as U.S Patent Publication No. 2005/0091755. The patent application discloses various embodiments of a method for cleaning fabric in an automatic laundering apparatus which utilizes at least one non-aqueous fluid in the wash liquor. The written description also describes the drying loop which is in fluid communication with the wash chamber.

(6) The U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0091755 describes condensation systems for condensing the warm, non-aqueous fluid vapor of the drying loop. Paragraph [0057] describes a spinning disc condensation system. The spinning disc system receives liquid cooling media, for example water and/or inert working fluid (IWF) from the storage tank which can be cooled via the chiller/ compressor, for example. The warm air containing non-aqueous vapor contacts and condenses on the spinning disc. As the condensate builds up the surface of the disc, the condensate flies off the surface of the disc which is in motion. In this manner the concentration of the volatile, non-aqueous working fluid in the warm vapor phase is reduced in more timely and efficient manner, while also improving safety. The spin disc condensation system does not filter non-aqueous liquid fluid.

(7) I have reviewed the cited references of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,635 issued to Berndt et al. Berndt et al. disclose a diatomaceous earth filter that is characterized as a spin disk filter, such as filter 18. Spin disc filter 18 filters the liquid solvent prior to its entry to the cleaning basket 10 (see col. 4 lines 5-10). The filter 18 can also filter liquid resulting from condensed vapors (col. 4, lines 25-26). The spin disc filters described in Berndt et al. are commercially known filters in laundering for the purpose of removing solid particulates from the liquid. Berndt et al. discloses that condensation of the vapors from the still 24 are condensed by the coils of a still vapor condenser 26 prior to entering the separator 28. The spin disc filter of Berndt et al., which filters liquid, has a different structure and function compared to Applicants' invention.

(8) I, Tremitchell Wright, declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 8/14/08


Tremitchell Wright